



# Zongo Movement for Development (ZOMOD)

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For Immediate Release

## **NDC'S POLITICS AND CAMPAIGN OF CALUMNY IN THE ZONGOS ARCHAIC AND DISRESPECTFUL TO THE GOOD PEOPLE OF ZONGO**

As the 2024 Presidential Election gets closer and the campaign heats up, the Zongo Movement for Development (ZOMOD) has noticed a disrespectful mode of campaigning by leadership of the NDC, with regards to the Zongo community.

Rather than showing the people of Zongo respect and telling us the record of former President Mahama, if any, in the Zongos, when he was Vice President and President between 2009 and 2017 respectively, the NDC has rather chosen the brutish path of launching insulting attacks on the person of Alhaji Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, anytime it meets a Zongo audience.

First, NDC General Secretary, Fiifi Kwetey, without provocation, rained unprintable insults on the person of Dr. Bawumia at no other place than in the north. Then Alhaji Said Sinare, once a diplomat, who ought to have known better due to his stature within Muslim circles in Ghana, desecrated his own reputation, by launching unislamic attacks on the person of Dr. Bawumia. After this, the National Chairman of the NDC, Johnson Asiedu Nketia, who is supposed to be an example for young people and young politicians, considering his age and experience in politics, sat on national television, and without any provocation, called Dr. Bawumia an idiot.

As if all these were not enough, Johnson Asiedu Nketia, the NDC National Chairman, again has been raining unprintable insults on the person of Dr. Bawumia during his campaign meetings with members of the Zongo community.

Having been inspired by these campaign of calumny by their leaders, some members of the NDC Zongo campaign, have also taken a cue from it, and have also resorted to campaign of insults, lies and propaganda anytime they engage Zongo audience.

As watchers of politics in the Zongos in the 4th Republic, we are not surprised by the posture of the NDC, especially in dealing with the people of the good people of Zongo, as it has been the stock in trade of the NDC to take the people of Zongo for granted. As development advocates for Zongo, we are rather appalled by the NDC's new height of disrespect, which its leadership is showing to the people of Zongo, at this stage of our democracy, where political campaign should be based on issues.

The NDC is so used to campaign of this campaign of calumny in the Zongos that even when it has become so obvious that their divisive and disrespectful campaign tactic has become ineffective, they cannot see it and purge themselves.

But we can understand why the NDC and its national leadership are so bent on targeting the person of Dr. Bawumia in the Zongos, instead of selling the record of its candidate, former President Mahama in the Zongos.

First, former President Mahama and the NDC, have no proud record of tangible development in the Zongos, during his time as Vice President and President. Second, the NDC is shaken by how the Zongo community, across the country, is warmly embracing the Presidential bid of Dr. Bawumia.

Third, the NDC's tribal campaign in the Zongos, which used to accuse the NPP of anti-Zongo party, has now been rendered ineffective, following the historic election of Dr. Bawumia as the NPP's Flagbearer, after being an impactful Vice President for the past seven and half years.

Clearly, if the NDC had any good record of former President Mahama to sell in the Zongos, its leaders and spokespersons would not be raining unprintable insults on Bawumia as their main campaign message to the people of Zongos.

Rather than wage a baseless war against Bawumia, the NDC leadership should be asking themselves how their party, which hitherto, used to enjoy massive support in the Zongos, is now panting for breath? They should ask themselves why many, in Zongos across the country, are now embracing Dr. Bawumia and the NPP?

The answer is simple! Dr. Bawumia, has remained truthful, respectful and impactful to the people of Zongo in his dealings.

Through his effort as Vice President, Dr. Bawumia got the NPP Government to fulfill the promise of Zongo Development Fund to as a statutory vehicle for the development of Zongos. Today, the ZDF has not only made significant impact in infrastructure in many Zongos, it has become a reliable vehicle providing educational and vocational opportunities for young people in the Zongos.

Today, we can count up to 70 classroom blocks, ICT centres and educational grants through the Zongo Development Fund. Today, 40 needy students from Zongo communities are studying to be medical doctors in Cuba. All these are due to the vision and efforts of Dr. Bawumia, as Vice President.

We are therefore, not surprised that, unlike the NDC, the NPP and the Bawumia Zongo Campaign, has been propagating the achievements and record of its party and candidate during its meetings with the Zongo community.

What is even more remarkable is that the Bawumia Zongo campaign, has catalogued every project it has built in the Zongos throughout the country and provided locations for verification. Again, unlike the NDC leadership, the Bawumia campaign shows decency to the people of Zongo and do not come around engaging in insults.

For a party that cancelled allowances for Arabic instructors in various makaranta, introduced by President Kufuor, we can, perhaps, understand why the NDC is avoiding politics of issues in the Zongos. Again, for a party which left over one thousand Ghanaian Muslims, who had fully paid their Hajj fees stranded at the Hajj Village and could not send them to Hajj in 2016, requiring the then President Mahama to apologise during the 2016 Eid ul Adha prayers at the Independence Square, we can, perhaps, understand why the likes of Asiedu Nketia and the NDC Zongo leadership, would run away from issue-based campaign.

But our advice to the NDC is that, if they have nothing serious to tell the good people of Zongo, they should at least show our Imams, Zongo Chiefs and mothers, some respect by their choice of words.

The Almighty Allah has bestowed upon Dr. Bawumia, a proud son of Zongo, the mantle of leadership and to have the likes of Asiedu Nketia rain unprintable insults on him, right before the people Zongo is the greatest insults to the people of Zongo.

The brutish politics of calumny the NDC employed in the past, is now ineffective. Our democracy has grown and the people are wide awake.

The 2024 elections campaign in the Zongos, just as the last election in 2020, will be about development records of the NPP and NDC in the Zongos. It will be about the record of former President Mahama, who has been Vice President and President before, and Dr. Bawumia, who has been Vice President and now seeking to be President.

Thankfully their records are clear to every objective Zongo person the good people of Zongo cannot be taken for granted anymore with campaign of backward campaign tactics.

SIGNED

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